

TO: Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Matt Fulton, City Manager
Ross Beckwith, Park & Rec/PW Dir.
FROM: Dave Schletty, Asst. Parks & Rec. Dir.
DATE: May 23, 2016
SUBJECT: Discussion of Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Plan



City of West St. Paul

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As Council is aware the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle was discovered in West St Paul earlier this spring. The MN Department of Agriculture, assisted by City staff, has conducted 2 visual surveys of trees in the City. During the first they found 3 infested trees on boulevards in the north end of town. During the second they did not find any more, although they are sure there are more out there. Staff immediately had the three infested trees removed and properly disposed of. Staff is in the process of implementing the next steps of the EAB action plan. This will include injection treatments of healthy trees, more targeted takedowns and reforestation. Staff will be enlisting the services of a tree company to perform tree injections this year, but will explore the option of having City staff trained to do this in future years.

Staff will also be working with volunteers to complete an inventory of all the park trees this summer. Resident and former Environmental Committee member, Karen Zumach, has volunteered her time to coordinate and train other volunteers with this effort.

Staff has also recently met with resident Michael Orange. Mr. Orange has developed a computer model which helps predict the cost of EAB infestation, and also puts a \$ value on the affected ash trees. Michael has volunteered his time to run the West St Paul tree population through his model. Using only the current boulevard tree numbers, if we follow the EAB Action Plan and treat to save as many quality trees as possible, Mr. Orange's model predicts a cost of \$30,000 in 2016 and rising to \$42,000 in 2020. Mr. Orange also discussed many useful approaches to controlling the EAB infestation, which fit perfectly with our planned approach.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City Council has budgeted \$30,000 for EAB related items in 2016.

		Amount
Fund:	403	
Department:	43100	
Account:	40226	\$30,000